

# Influenza Vaccination Recommendation Health Care Provider Updates for 2018-19

## What Providers Need to Know for the 2018-19 Influenza Season

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continue to recommend annual flu vaccination for everyone aged 6 months and older. After two seasons during which the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV4, FluMist®) not be used, in February 2018 ACIP recommended LAIV4 be an option for flu vaccination of persons for whom it is appropriate for the 2018-19 season (i.e., healthy, non-pregnant persons aged 2-49 years).

## Key Facts

- During the 2016-17 and 2017-18 flu seasons, ACIP recommended LAIV4 not be used because of concerns about low effectiveness against A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses circulating in the U.S. during 2013-14 and 2015-16. However, based on new data, ACIP recommended LAIV4 for use in the 2018-19 season.
- The manufacturer changed the A(H1N1)pdm09 strain to A/Slovenia/2903/2015. New data suggest this new vaccine strain has improved replicative fitness over previous A(H1N1)pdm09-like vaccine strains in LAIV4.
- ACIP will continue to review data concerning the effectiveness of LAIV4 as they become available. This is an example of scientific research influencing policies to improve overall population health.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends children receive injectable (inactivated) flu vaccine for the 2018-19 season. For those children who would otherwise receive no flu vaccine for the 2018-19 season, AAP says LAIV4 can be given. AAP will publish its formal policy statement on flu prevention and treatment in September 2018.

## Provider Information

- The Flu Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) for IIV/RIV and LAIV have not changed since 8/7/15. To access them, go to [www.michigan.gov/immunize](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize) → Health Care Professionals/Providers → VIS is at the top.
- LAIV4 is not available under the Vaccines for Children program for the 2018-19 season.
- Flu vaccine handouts for the 2018-19 season can be found at [www.michigan.gov/flu](http://www.michigan.gov/flu) → Current Flu Season Vaccination Materials for Health Care Professionals.

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For more information, refer to: "Update: ACIP Recommendations for the Use of Quadrivalent Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV4) – U.S., 2018-19 Influenza Season," MMWR 2018;67(22):643-645 and "Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the ACIP—U.S., 2018-19 Influenza Season," MMWR Recomm Rep 2018;67(No. RR-3):1–20, located at [www.cdc.gov/mmwr](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr); and American Academy of Pediatrics at [www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/AAP-Advises-Parents-to-Choose-the-Flu-Shot-For-2018-2019-Flu-Season.aspx](http://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/AAP-Advises-Parents-to-Choose-the-Flu-Shot-For-2018-2019-Flu-Season.aspx).